



Our Vision

An inclusive community committed to high levels of learning for all.

Our Mission

In the spirit of Saint Mary Mackillop, we strive for excellence with love, dignity, integrity and justice.

Dear Families

Whilst the pressure of Semester 1 reporting is slowly beginning to increase on both the staff and students, it is the simple things that always makes us stop and take a breath.

With this in mind, witnessing the wonderful comradery of our students from Glengallan and Dalrymple who competed in their final Gala day for 2021 provided a wonderful end to Week 6. It is extremely satisfying to watch our students participate and to genuinely enjoy their experience. As a school community, we are also very grateful for the willingness of Mr Burton, Mrs Peters and Mrs Wright to help with our teams over the course of the last two weeks. It was also heartening to observe the many parents who thoroughly enjoyed watching their children participate and to witness their obvious delight when a goal or try was scored. It certainly is all about the little things in life.

The students from Talgai and Cunningham also ventured to Clifton at the end of Week 6 to participate in the annual Clifton Under 8's Day. From all accounts, the students had a wonderful time. Watching them disembark from the bus on their return to Allora was a sight to behold. Their energy levels are truly boundless. We suspect that Ms Hickey, Mrs Lucas and Mrs McCosker had a very quiet Friday night.

Some of our younger students shared their experiences about Under 8's Day.

Max— "I liked the karate station and dancing. I pretty much liked the whole day."

Poppy— "We had to feel shaving cream".

Hunter— "I liked building a money box".

Clancy— "I liked building out of cardboard".

Violet— "I liked the karate".

Charlie— "I liked all of the activities".

Grace— "We did karate and dancing".

Teaching and Learning

The staff of St Patrick's have been extremely busy over the last three weeks finalizing their individual student's reading data. This data is not only analysed at a school level but also Diocesan level. Teachers will use this data to inform their planning over the next ten weeks. Probably the biggest advantage of a common data set such as the reading scores provides an avenue for all staff to engage in professional dialogue. This dialogue will centre on harnessing the vast experiences of each staff member. Individual plans will be developed that address the needs of each student in terms of their engagement and academic growth.

"The education sector has innovated and adapted in recent years with changing learning environments, collaborative classrooms and the rise of individualized learning. In (the) 2020 Future of Education report, more than nine in ten educators (96%) and parents (94%), believe schools should, at least to some extent, provide individualized education. Students also value individualized learning with 72% wanting to see more of it in education in the future. Students would also like to see more open plan learning environments (73%), collaborative classrooms (71%) and inquiry based learning (71%) in the future. To a lesser extent, students want to see more teacher directed learning in the future (64%). The future of Education (2021)."

Certainly food for thought as we navigate the end of Semester 1.

Life Education

All four classes have been lucky enough to visit the famous Healthy Harold Van during Week 7. Hopefully the dinner table conversations have been interesting and grounded in the content discussed by the Life Education facilitators. The following modules have been completed this week:

- Talgai (My Body Matters), Cunningham (Safety Rules), Dalrymple (Becyberwise) and Glengallan (Relate, Respect, Connect).

2021 Premier's Reading Challenge

St Patrick's School Allora has registered for the 2021 Premier's Reading Challenge. As you know, reading plays such an important part in students' lives during their school years and beyond. It allows children to actively engage their imagination and opens up a world of educational opportunities. The challenge for our students is to read or experience the allocated number of books for their reading level (either 15 or 20) during the reading period, from 10 May to 27 August 2021. Suggested book lists can be found at www.educationqld.edu.au/schools/readingchallenge. Enjoy!!

Feeling Safe

Our School Student Protection Contacts are:

Ms Donnelly
Mr Blaikie

Ms Jayne Farquharson

Reminders

Uniform Days

Sports

Wednesday, Friday.

Formal

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.

Winter Uniform from Tuesday 4 May 2021

Please remember that we are a 'Nut Aware' School.

Church Times - Celebrations are up and running again with social distancing measures in place. Times for Masses are as follows:

**1st Sunday - 9am,
2nd and 3rd Sunday - 5.30pm**

4th & 5th Sunday - Liturgy of the Word with Communion - 9am



School Counsellor

Managing Big Feelings (Jayne Farquharson)

The topic of managing big feelings is of interest to most parents. It's important to remind ourselves that big feelings are OK. Any emotion is ok, there are no good or bad feelings. Emotions are what makes us human, and they give us important information, which if we listen to can help us to navigate through life. Before we had modern science, (which teaches us the importance of emotional intelligence), we may have been taught that emotions were bad or that we shouldn't express them or that we should push them away or ignore them. Take a moment to think about how you were taught about emotions, what was the emotional climate at home where you grew up? It's important to reflect on our own experience as adults, in order to be aware of how we influence and shape our children and their relationship to emotions.

It's important we teach our children that emotions are healthy and it's ok to feel them. We can educate our children to choose tools and skills to help them to manage their big feelings. When we are angry or fearful for example, it affects how our brain works. It's more difficult to learn and remember things and impacts our ability to make good choices. Learning how our emotions can affect our brain and body gives us power back over them. It's important to label our emotions (naming and taming) and use a common language or emotional vocabulary to increase emotional literacy. There are so many creative ways to do this as a family. I encourage you to choose a way that suits you and your family, to support your child to increase their understanding of feelings and how to manage them. A very simple way to do this is to read story books together and talk about the characters in the story and explore how they are feeling. There are many tools and techniques that children can learn to manage sensations in their body (e.g., sensory tools), ways to calm (e.g., deep breathing) and to think more clearly (e.g., positive self-talk). It's important that children practice these skills, so they know what skill to use when they are having a big feeling.

All the best in learning more about emotions and having a go at learning a new tool or technique to support your child.

Practical Ways to Help Kids Cope - <https://copingskillsforkids.com/>

How to Create a Calm Down Corner - <https://www.mindfulmazing.com/how-to-create-the-perfect-calm-down-corner/>

Mindfulness - Mindful Powers App - <https://mindfulpowersforkids.com/>

Reconciliation Week

In order to acknowledge the importance of Reconciliation Week, we would like to share with you a prayer for reconciliation. As a school community, we will further acknowledge Reconciliation Week in our annual NAIDOC Celebrations which will be held on Tuesday 22 June.

A Prayer for Reconciliation

In the midst of conflict and division,
We know it is you
Who turns our minds to thoughts of peace.

Your spirit changes hearts:
Enemies begin to speak to one another,
Those who were estranged join hands in friendship,
And nations seek the way of peace together.

Let your spirit be at work in us.

Give us understanding
and put an end to strife,
Fill us with your mercy
and overcome our denial.

Grant us wisdom and teach us to learn
from the people of the land.

Call us to justice.

(Adapted from the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer for the Mass of Reconciliation 11)

DATE CLAIMERS

Term 2

- 1/2 June—Life Education
- 4 June—Assembly at 8:50am
- 18 June—Assembly at 8:50am
- 22 June—NAIDOC Celebrations
- 23 June— Parent Information Session 2022 (10:30am to 12:00pm)
- 24 June—Athletics Carnival (St Patrick's)
- 25 June—Last day of Term 2
- **12 July— Pupil Free Day**
- **13 July— Tuesday (Term 3 Commences)**
- **30 July—Friday (Pupil Free/ Office closed)**

God Bless

Keith Blaikie—Principal